

REMARKS

1. Claim 1 has been canceled. It is therefore submitted that the Examiner's rejections in sections 3 and 7 of the Final Rejection do not apply anymore.

2. In view of the above, Applicant hereby withdraws his claim to make the present application as a CIP of US 08/481,458. See also above amendments to the description.

3. Claim 43 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of canceled claim 1.

4. In section 5 of his Final Rejection, the Examiner has rejected claims 4-30 and 43-44 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over UK Patent Application GB 2,263,660 taken together with International Application Publication WO 94/15863. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant points out that both references have the same inventor of the present application, Pietro Padovani. More specifically, with reference to WO 94/15863, the filing date is December 27, 1993, namely less than one year before the priority date of the present application, namely September 14, 1994. See MPEP, section 715.01(c). It is therefore submitted that the reference WO 94/15863 cannot be applied against claims 4-30 and 43-44. As a consequence, these claims are patentable and

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in condition for granting.

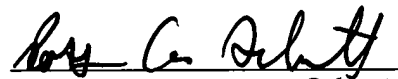
5. In section 6 of his Final Rejection, the Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB '660 taken together with WO 94/15863, as applied to claims 4-30, 43 and 44 above, and further in view of US Pat. No. 3,966,386 to Beyer-Olsen. It is submitted that the reference WO 94/15863 cannot be applied against claim 3 for the same reasons as above. As a consequence, this claim is patentable and in condition for granting.

For the reasons explained above, favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

Respectfully submitted,

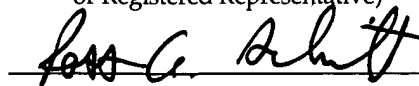


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Enclosures - Appendix
Check for one-month extension of time
Petition for one-month extension of time
Postcard

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 20, 2001.

Ross A. Schmitt
(Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative)


Signature

March 20, 2001